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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LE, MIRANDA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/811,675	IMANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Miranda Le	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/19/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the text exceeds 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-21, 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooke et al. (US Patent. No. 6,574,629 B1), in view of Tanaka et al. (US Patent No. 6,564,256 B1).

As per claim 1, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a customer” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first identifier for identifying said customer and a second identifier for identifying said object by associating said first and second identifiers with said object” at col. 22, lines 22-63;

“an accepting step for accepting a request from said customer requesting retrieval of said object, said request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 6-25;

“a step for comparing said first identifier contained in said request with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said request if said two first identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“a searching step for searching for said object based at least on said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53.

Cooke does not explicitly teach “a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data; and a sending step for sending said first information to said customer”. However, Tanaka teaches:

“a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data” at col. 9, lines 23-38;

“a sending step for sending said first information to said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data; and a sending step for sending said first information to said customer” in order to provide a protocol conversion server is arranged to convert the format of the medical image data to a predetermined format, medical image data can be converted to medical image data in a desired format conforming to the terminal, whereby efficiency in diagnosis can be improved.

As per claim 2, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a customer, or for storing second information received from a customer in a storage device, said second information being analog data or digital data” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step or storing in a storage device a first identifier for identifying said customer and a second identifier for identifying said object or said second information” at col. 22, lines 22-63;

“an accepting step for accepting a request from said customer requesting retrieval of said object or said second information, said request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 6-25;

“a step for comparing said first identifier contained in said request with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said request if said two first identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“a searching step for searching for said object or said second information based at least on said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53.

Cooke does not explicitly teach “a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data, said converting step being performed when said customer is requesting the retrieval of said object; and a sending step for sending said first information or said second information to said customer”. However, Tanaka teaches:

“a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data, said converting step being performed when said customer is requesting the retrieval of said object” at col. 9, lines 23-38;

“and a sending step for sending said first information or said second information to said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data, said converting step being performed when said customer is requesting the retrieval of said object; and a sending step for sending said first information or said second information to said customer” in order to provide a protocol conversion server is arranged to convert the format of the medical image data to a predetermined format, medical image data can be converted to medical image data in a desired format conforming to the terminal, whereby efficiency in diagnosis can be improved.

As per claim 12, Cooke teaches “An information management method comprising: a first storing step for storing second information received from a customer, said second information being analog data or digital data, a first identifier for identifying said customer, and a second identifier for identifying said second information, at an address having first location information in a first place” at col. 2, lines 18-56;

“a transmitting step for transmitting information including said first identifier, said second identifier, and said first location information, to a management section” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 37, lines 18-53;

“a first responding step for outputting said second information from a storage device located in said first place, if a request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier and requesting retrieval of said second information is made by said customer” at col. 22, lines 23-63.

Cooke does not explicitly teach the following limitations. However, Tanaka teaches:

“a step for said management section to issue an instruction to transfer said second information from said first place to a second place when the period of storage in said first place has exceeded a predetermined period, or when the amount of information stored in said storage device in said first place has exceeded a predetermined amount, or when said customer requests said transfer” at col. 6, lines 5-36;

“a second storing step for storing said second information at an address having second location information in said second place” at col. 9, line 23 to col. 10, line 16, col. 6, line 37 to col. 7, line 30;

“a step for said management section to store therein said second location information by associating said second location information with said first identifier and said second identifier” at col. 6, line 37 to col. 7, line 30;

“a sending step for searching for said second information in accordance with an instruction from said management section, and sending said second information to said customer via a communication line, if a request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier and requesting retrieval of said second information is received from said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a step for said management section to issue...; a second storing step for storing said second information...; a step for said management section to store...; a sending step for searching...” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 13, Cooke teaches “An information management method comprising: a first depositing step for depositing an object received from a customer, or a medium received from said customer and having recorded thereon second information which is analog data or digital data, at an address having first location information in a first place” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for transmitting information including a first identifier for identifying said customer, a second identifier for identifying said object or said medium, and said first location information, to a management section, and for storing said information in said management section” at col. 37, lines 18-53, col. 24, lines 14-53.

Cooke does not explicitly teach the following limitations. However, Tanaka teaches:

“an instructing step for said management section to issue an instruction to transfer said object or said medium from said first place to a second place when the period of deposit in said first place has exceeded a predetermined period, or when said object or said medium stored in said storage device in said first place has exceeded a predetermined quantity, or when said customer requests said transfer” at col. 6, lines 5-35;

“a second depositing step for transferring said object or said medium from said first place to said second place, and for depositing said object or said medium at an address having second location information in said second place” at col. 6, line 37 to col. 7, line 30;

“a second storing step for said management section to store therein said second location information by associating said second location information with said first identifier and said second identifier” at col. 6, line 37 to col. 7, line 30;

“a sending step for searching for said object or said medium in accordance with an instruction from said management section, and sending first information, which is analog data or digital data obtained by converting information contained in said object, or said second information reproduced from said medium, to said customer via a communication line, if a request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier and requesting retrieval of said object or said second information is received from said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51, col. 10, line 4 to col. 11, line 5.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “an instructing step for said management section to issue...; a second depositing step for transferring said object ...; a

second storing step for said management section to store ...; a sending step for searching..." in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 16, Cooke teaches "An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a customer" at col. 2, lines 20-56;

"a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first identifier for identifying said customer and a second identifier for identifying said object" at col. 22, lines 23-63;

"an accepting step for accepting a request from said customer requesting analysis of said object, said request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier" at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 3, lines 7-24;

"a step for comparing said first identifier contained in said request with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said request if said two first identifiers are not substantially the same" at col. 24, lines 14-53;

"a searching step for searching for said object based at least on said second identifier" at col. 24, lines 14-53.

Cooke does not explicitly teach the following limitations. However, Tanaka teaches:

"a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data" at col. 9, lines 23-28;

"a first sending step for sending said first information to an analyzing person" at col. 9, lines 1-51;

“a receiving step for receiving an analysis result transmitted from said analyzing person”
at col. 9, lines 1-51;

“a second sending step for sending said analysis result to said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a converting step ...; a first sending step...; a receiving step...; a second sending step...” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 17, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a customer, or for storing second information received from a customer in a storage device, said second information being analog data or digital data” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first identifier for identifying said customer and a second identifier for identifying said object or said second information” at col. 22, lines 23-63;

“an accepting step for accepting a request from said customer requesting analysis of said object or said second information, said request containing therein said first identifier and said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 7-24;

“a step for comparing said first identifier contained in said request with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said request if said two first identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 11-53;

“a searching step for searching for said object or said second information based at least on said second identifier” at col. 24, lines 11-53;

Cooke does not explicitly teach the following limitations. However, Tanaka teaches:

“a converting step for converting information contained in said object into first information which is analog data or digital data, said converting step being performed when said customer is requesting the analysis of said object” at col. 9, lines 23-28;

“a first sending step for sending said first information or said second information to an analyzing person” at col. 9, lines 1-51;

“a receiving step for receiving an analysis result transmitted from said analyzing person” at col. 9, lines 1-51;

“a second sending step for sending said analysis result to said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a converting step...; a first sending step...; a receiving step...; a second sending step...” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 23, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a first customer” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first customer identifier for identifying said first customer and a deposit identifier for identifying said object” at col. 22, lines 22-63;

“an accepting step for accepting an instruction containing therein said first customer identifier, said deposit identifier, and a second customer identifier for identifying a customer other than said first customer, said instruction instructing to grant a request for retrieval of said object if said request is received together with said second customer identifier and said deposit identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 3, lines 7-24;

“a step for comparing said first customer identifier contained in said instruction with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said instruction if said two first customer identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“an accepting step for accepting said object retrieval request containing therein said second customer identifier and said deposit identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 7-24;

Cooke does not explicitly teach “a step for permitting the retrieval of said object in accordance with said request if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction”. However, Tanaka teaches this limitation at col. 7, line 8 to col. 8, line 45.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a step for permitting the retrieval of said object in accordance with said request if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said

instruction” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 24, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a first customer, or for storing second information received from a first customer in a storage device, said second information being analog data or digital data” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first customer identifier for identifying said first customer and a deposit identifier for identifying said object or said second information” at col. 22, lines 23-63;

“an accepting step for accepting an instruction containing therein said first customer identifier, said deposit identifier, and a second customer identifier for identifying a customer other than said first customer, said instruction instructing to grant a request for retrieval of said object or said second information if said request is received together with said second customer identifier and said deposit identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 7-24;

“a step for comparing said first customer identifier contained in said instruction with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said instruction if said two first customer identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“an accepting step for accepting said object or second information retrieval request containing therein said second customer identifier and said deposit identifier” at col. 33, lines 7-24;

Cooke does not explicitly teach “a step for permitting the retrieval of said object or said second information in accordance with said request if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction”. However, Tanaka teaches this limitation at col. 7, line 8 to col. 8, line 45.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a step for permitting the retrieval of said object or said second information in accordance with said request if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

As per claim 3, Cooke teaches “the step of presenting said customer with an image display of a storage list showing both said stored object and said stored second information” at col. 37, lines 18-53, col. 31, lines 26-56.

As per claim 4, Cooke teaches “said accepting in said accepting step and said sending in said sending step are each performed by transmitting a digital data sequence over a communication line” at col. 37, lines 18-53.

As per claim 6, Cooke teaches “said first information includes therein at least one of visual indications of customer name, customer identifier, attribute information of said object,

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identifier of said object, or an optical identifier having information consisting of at least one of said first and second identifiers” at col. 22, lines 22-63,

“or said second information includes therein at least one of visual indications of customer name, customer identifier, attribute information of said second information, identifier of said second information, or an optical identifier having information consisting of at least one of said first and second identifiers” at col. 22, lines 22-63.

As per claim 10, Cooke teaches “said object is already received from said customer, said accepting step allows said customer to select and specify whether said sending step should send said object or said first information” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 37, lines 18-53,

“when said customer specifies that said object be sent, said sending step sends said object to said customer” at col. 20, lines 19-54,

“when said customer specifies that said first information be sent, said sending step sends said first information to said customer” at col. 20, lines 19-54, col. 23, lines 26-49,

“and when said customer requests that said sending step send said object only, said converting step is not performed” at col. 20, lines 19-54.

As per claim 11, Cooke teaches “a step for accepting a request from said customer for return of said object” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 7-24;

“a step for returning said object to said customer” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“a step for searching for said first information corresponding to said object” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 22, lines 23-63;

“a step for erasing said first information if said first information is stored” at col. 22, lines 23-63.

As per claim 14, Tanaka teaches “said management section includes a first computer comprising a communication device installed in said first place, and a second computer comprising a communication device installed in said second place” at col. 5, lines 29-56.

As per claim 15, Tanaka teaches “said second computer has a first data space not accessible by said customer and a second data space accessible by said customer, and wherein said method further includes the step of allowing said customer to access data stored in said second data space: via the Internet after said first identifier has been identified” at col. 5, lines 29-56.

As per claim 18, Cooke teaches “a step for presenting a plurality of analyzing persons to said customer” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 22, lines 23-63;

“a step for having said customer select at least one analyzing person from among said plurality of analyzing persons, and wherein: said first information or said second information is sent to said selected analyzing person” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 22, lines 23-63.

As per claim 19, Tanaka teaches “said method includes, instead of said receiving step and said second sending step, a third sending step for said analyzing person to send said analysis result directly to said customer” at col. 9, lines 1-51, col. 7, line 41 to col. 8, line 43.

As per claim 20, Tanaka teaches “said accepting in said accepting step, said sending in said first sending step, said second sending step, and said third sending step, and said receiving in said receiving step are each performed via a communication line” at col. 9, lines 1-51, col. 7, line 41 to col. 8, line 43.

As per claim 21, Tanaka teaches “when the customer that sent said object or said second information is denoted as a first customer said object, said first information, or said second information is an object or information concerning a second customer, and said analysis is carried out at the request of at least either one of said first and second customers” at col. 7, line 41 to col. 8, line 43.

4. Claims 5, 7-9, 22, 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooke et al. (US Patent. No. 6,574,629 B1), in view of Tanaka et al. (US Patent No. 6,564,256 B1), and further in view of Serbinis et al. (US Patent No. 6,84,466).

As per claim 25, Cooke teaches “An object or information management method comprising: a storing step for storing an object of two-dimensional or three-dimensional shape received from a first customer, or for storing second information received from a first customer in a storage device, said second information being analog data or digital data” at col. 2, lines 20-56;

“a first storing step for storing in a storage device a first customer identifier for identifying said first customer and a deposit identifier for identifying said object or said second information” at col. 22, lines 23-63;

“an accepting step for accepting an instruction containing therein said first customer identifier, said deposit identifier, and a second customer identifier for identifying a customer other than said first customer, said instruction instructing to transfer a copy of said second information or a copy of first information generated from information contained in said object, to said customer having said second customer identifier” at col. 24, lines 14-53, col. 33, lines 7-24;

“a step for comparing said first customer identifier contained in said instruction with said first identifier stored in said storage device, and for rejecting said instruction if said two first customer identifiers are not substantially the same” at col. 24, lines 14-53;

“an accepting step for accepting a request containing therein said second customer identifier and said deposit identifier and requesting storage of the copy of said first information or said second information” at col. 33, lines 7-24.

Cooke does not explicitly teach “a step for permitting said customer having said second identifier at least to retrieve said first information or said second information for viewing if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction”. However, Tanaka teaches this limitation at col. 7, line 8 to col. 8, line 45.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “a step for permitting said customer having said second identifier at least to retrieve said first information or said second information for viewing if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction” in order to provide an image transfer system which can efficiently transfer medical image data.

Cooke, Tanaka do not explicitly teach “a step for charging said customer having said second identifier at least for the storage of said copy if said second customer identifier contained in said request substantially matches said second customer identifier contained in said instruction”. However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 6, lines 19-63.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “said object or said second information is associated with a customer having a third identifier, and said first customer identifier is replaced by said third identifier” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 5, Cooke, Tanaka do not specifically teach “said digital data sequence is encrypted”. However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 7, lines 33-41.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “said digital data sequence is encrypted” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 7, Cooke, Tanaka do not specifically teach “a step for counting the number of times that said customer retrieves said object, said first information, or said second

information; and a step for billing said customer for charges including a charge corresponding to said number of times”. However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 7, lines 33-41.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “a step for counting the number of times that said customer retrieves said object, said first information, or said second information; and a step for billing said customer for charges including a charge corresponding to said number of times” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 8, Tanaka teaches “when the information contained in said object is converted into said first information, said method further includes: a second storing step for storing said first information in a storage device” at col. 9, line 23 to col. 10, line 16.

Cooke, Tanaka do not specifically teach the following limitations. However, Serbinis teaches:

“a step for storing third information in a storage device by associating said third information with said object, said third information providing an indication of whether said first information into which the information contained in said object has been converted is stored or not” at col. 6, lines 19-63, col. 7, lines 29-62,

“and wherein: said searching step searches for said first information when said third information associated with said object to be searched for indicates that said first information is stored, and when said first information is stored” at col. 8, lines 45-61, col. 7, lines 29-62,

“said sending step reads out said stored first information and sends said readout first information” at col. 6, line 19 to col. 7, line 28.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “a step for storing third information...; said searching step searches for said first information...; said sending step reads out...” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 9, Tanaka teaches “when the information contained in said object is converted into said first information, said method further includes a second storing step for storing said first information in a storage device” at col. 9, line 23 to col. 10, line 16,

“and wherein: said searching step first searches for said first information and, if said first information is not found, then searches for said object” at col. 9, line 23 to col. 10, line 16,

Cooke, Tanaka do not specifically teach “when said first information is stored, said sending step reads out said stored first: information and sends said readout first information”.

However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 6, line 19 to col. 7, line 25.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “when said first information is stored, said sending step reads out said stored first: information and sends said readout first information” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents

over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 22, Cooke, Tanaka do not specifically teach “a step for paying an analysis fee to said analyzing person; and a step for charging said analysis fee to said customer”.

However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 3, lines 7-13.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook, Tanaka with the teachings of Serbinis to include “a step for paying an analysis fee to said analyzing person; and a step for charging said analysis fee to said customer” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

As per claim 26, Cooke, Tanaka do not explicitly teach “said object or said second information is associated with a customer having a third identifier, and said first customer identifier is replaced by said third identifier”. However, Serbinis teaches this limitation at col. 6, lines 19-63.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Cook with the teachings of Tanaka to include “said object or said second information is associated with a customer having a third identifier, and said first customer identifier is replaced by said third identifier” in order to provide methods for managing electronic documents over open networks that permit users to collaboratively store, retrieve, modify and collaboratively manipulate files.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sitka et al. US Pub. No. US 2001/0011336 A1

Chang et al. US Pub. No. US 2002/0109735 A1


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-3203. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 872-9306. The TC 2100's Customer Service number is (703) 306-5631.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Miranda Le
September 02, 2004



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER